

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

January 20, 2026

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Present were: John O'Grady, President
Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner
Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator; Damika Withers, Deputy County Administrator; Shayla D. Favor, Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; and Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Using hybrid meeting technology, participants were also able to access General Session via Zoom Webinar Meeting ID: 811 9053 2115; Passcode: 1803, to attend virtually and watch the session live, [click here to register in advance](#).

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Commissioner O'Grady called the meeting to order at 9:11 A.M.

Commissioner O'Grady: Good morning, everyone. Before we get started, I want to take a moment to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which we observed yesterday. This day is not just about reflection but also a call to action. We encourage everyone in Franklin County to honor Dr. King's legacy through acts of service and kindness by helping neighbors, supporting our communities, and working for justice in everyday ways. His courage, compassion, and commitment to justice continue to guide and inspire us in our work.

Commissioner Boyce emphasized that Dr. King's legacy is about daily commitment to justice and equality, not just an annual celebration, and that progress in a democracy depends on constant course correction driven by the people. Commissioner Boyce expressed hope that this generation can write a stronger chapter in the nation's story, offering that the most meaningful way to honor Dr. King is through consistent action, not ceremony.

Commissioner Crawley echoed Commissioner Boyce's remarks and described the previous day's MLK events as awe-inspiring, especially the student orators and the keynote speaker. Commissioner Crawley reflected on the brilliance of the younger generation, their awareness of injustice, and their desire for a just future, stating it is the responsibility of current leaders to help make that future possible. Commissioner Crawley emphasized that honoring Dr. King's legacy

requires daily, intentional action beyond ceremonial statements, and affirmed a personal commitment to that work both on and off the dais.

Commissioner O'Grady reflected on watching Dr. King's 1964 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, noting that Dr. King accepted the award not as a personal honor but on behalf of a movement still in the midst of struggle. Commissioner O'Grady contrasted Dr. King's humility and sense of unfinished work with today's discourse and described the speech as a powerful and timely reminder, especially in light of recent local and national events. Commissioner O'Grady encouraged others to revisit the speech and thanked his colleagues for their reflections.

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Resolution No. 0010-26, authorizing a Community Partnership Grant with The Center of Science and Industry to provide Learning Lunchboxes to Franklin County youth (\$670,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships, Stephen White, Chief Strategy Officer, COSI, and Aaron Westbrook, Founder & CEO, Form5 and 2019 COSI STEAM Star.

Dr. Brown, Mr. White, and Mr. Westbrook reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Boyce asked how many lunchboxes the grant would support distributing and whether the lunchboxes would only be available at the event or also distributed to those unable to attend at COSI. Mr. White advised that the plan is to distribute 15,000 lunchboxes throughout Franklin County, primarily through nonprofit partners rather than at COSI, and to meet families where they are and align distribution with the nonprofits' programmatic efforts to support their missions and connect with the community.

Commissioner Crawley expressed enthusiasm for the Learning Lunchboxes and interest in partnering again with nonprofits or schools to distribute them, noting her previous involvement and requested that her office be included in future outreach.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution No. 0010-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0011-26, authorizing a contract with Capital University Law School (\$39,500.00) (Domestic Relations), presented by Alex Coughlin, Interim Finance Director, Domestic Relations.

Mr. Coughlin reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0011-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Commissioner O'Grady: We have a Public Hearing for Resolution 0012-26. Can the Clerk please read the Public Hearing?

PUBLIC HEARING: Plans approved for Innis Road, County Road No. 171, from Cleveland Avenue, County Road No. 75, to Westerville Road, (SR3), Clinton Township and Mifflin Township, Franklin County, Ohio.

Commissioner O'Grady opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak. Seeing and hearing none, Commissioner O'Grady closed the Public Hearing, and the resolution was read into the record.

Resolution No. 0012-26, plans approved for Innis Road, County Road No. 171, from Cleveland Avenue, County Road No. 75, to Westerville Road, (SR3), Clinton Township and Mifflin Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Soulas reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0012-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Commissioner O'Grady: We have a Public Hearing for Resolution 0013-26. Can the Clerk please read the Public Hearing?

PUBLIC HEARING: Plans approved for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS 2023) Improvements project, Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio.

Commissioner O'Grady opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak. Seeing and hearing none, Commissioner O'Grady closed the Public Hearing, and the resolution was read into the record.

Resolution No. 0013-26, plans approved for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS 2023) Improvements project, Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Soulas reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0013-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0014-26, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., consulting engineers, appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer in performing construction inspection services for the Pleasant Prairie Solar Field project, Pleasant Township and Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio (\$100,000.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Soulas reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0014-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0015-26, authorizing the Franklin County Engineer to enter into a contract modification with ms consultants, inc. for the Ferris Road from Minnie Road to Cleveland Avenue Improvement project, Clinton Township, an increase of \$72,360.00 (\$907,462.00) (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Soulas reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0015-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0016-26, approving the 2025 Annual County Highway System Mileage Report (Engineer), presented by Nick A. Soulas, Jr., Government Affairs Liaison, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Soulas reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0016-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0017-26, authorizing a multi-year agreement with Talbert House to provide an evaluation to assess the effectiveness and implementation fidelity of the Franklin County HOPE Quick Response Team (\$80,042.73) (Sheriff), presented by David Masterson, Chief Financial & Human Resources Officer, Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Masterson reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0017-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0018-26, supporting the Sheriff's Office to continue as lead agency in the Countywide DUI Task Force, and the approval of contracts with 4 member agencies participating on the Countywide DUI Task Force (\$250,000.00) (Sheriff), presented by David Masterson, Chief Financial & Human Resources Officer, Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Masterson reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0018-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0019-26, authorizing a Community Partnership Grant Agreement with Columbus Humane for calendar year 2026 (\$35,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships.

Dr. Brown reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0019-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0020-26, authorizing a one-year agreement with Columbus Public Health to provide treatment and services to individuals with tuberculosis and operate a tuberculosis clinic for residents of Franklin County (\$2,600,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships.

Dr. Brown reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0020-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0021-26, authorizing a Community Partnership Grant Agreement with Franklin County Public Health for calendar year 2026 (\$1,237,859.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships.

Dr. Brown reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0021-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0022-26, authorizing a Community Partnership Grant Agreement with The Ohio State University Extension on behalf of its Cooperative Extension for calendar year 2026 (\$225,000.00) (Community Partnerships), presented by Curtis Brown, Community Partnerships Administrator, Community Partnerships.

Dr. Brown reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0022-26, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0023-26, responding to the January 5th, 2026, notice received concerning the proposed creation of the Miller Farms Incentive District No. 1, Miller Farms Incentive District No. 2, and the Miller Farms Incentive District No. 3 Tax Increment Financing Incentive Districts in the City of Canal Winchester (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0023-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0024-26, review of a petition to annex 4.459 +/- acres from Washington Township to the City of Columbus, Case #ANX-45-25 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0024-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0025-26, review of a petition to annex 0.505 +/- acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City, Case #ANX-46-25 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, advised that a speaker slip on the proposed resolution had been submitted. The speaker was given three (3) minutes to speak.

Ben Hicks spoke in favor of Resolution No. 0025-26

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0025-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0026-26, review of a petition to annex 46.8 +/- acres from Hamilton Township to the City of Columbus, Case #ANX-47-25 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0026-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0027-26, review of a petition to annex 15.40 +/- acres from Jefferson Township to the City of Columbus, Case #ANX-49-25 (Economic Development and Planning), presented by Emanuel Torres, Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Torres reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0027-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0028-26, approving a subaward agreement with the National Center for Urban Solutions for programming to engage fathers in advocacy efforts supporting early childhood education (\$170,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Assistant Director, Job and Family Services.

Ms. Barnes reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0028-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0029-26, approving a subaward agreement with Partners Achieving Community Transformation for a workforce training program (\$152,500.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Assistant Director, Job and Family Services.

Ms. Barnes reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0029-26, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

Resolution No. 0030-26, approving contracts with the Deaf Services Center Inc. and HandsOn Central Ohio for Title XX Social Services (\$355,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Assistant Director, Job and Family Services.

Ms. Barnes reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0030-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0031-26, approving a contract with the Mid-Ohio Foodbank for the purchase and distribution of food to Franklin County soup kitchens, food pantries, emergency shelters, and community distribution events (\$100,000.00) (Job and Family Services), presented by Carmen Barnes, Assistant Director, Job and Family Services.

Ms. Barnes reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0031-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0032-26, authorizing a subgrant award agreement with City of Grace for the 2025 DadsGiving community event under the FY 2024 Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grant (\$6,600.00) (Justice Policy and Programs), presented by Ernest Stockton, Director, Justice Policy and Programs.

Mr. Stockton reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0032-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0033-26, appointing the Franklin County Apiary Inspector for 2026 (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Talarek reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0033-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0034-26, appointing the Franklin County Apiary Inspector for 2026 (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget, and Tyler Parsons, President & General Manager, Columbus Clippers.

Mr. Talarek and Mr. Parsons reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0034-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0035-26, reconciling 2026 Non-General Fund appropriations to align with the amended certificate of estimated resources (Board of Commissioners), presented by Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Talarek reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0035-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0036-26, to authorize Pastor Todd Moxley Watson as a joint appointment representative to the OneOhio Region 1 Board arising out of NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OPIATE LITIGATION (Board of Commissioners), presented by Michael Ruehrmund, Assistant Director, Community Appointments.

Mr. Ruehrmund reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0036-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0037-26, appointing Commissioners and/or Commissioners' designees for the 2026 calendar year to certain agencies or organizations and designation of serving in their official capacity (Board of Commissioners), presented by Michael Ruehrmund, Assistant Director, Community Appointments.

Mr. Ruehrmund reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0037-26, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 0038-26, appointing Ex Officio Directors for the 2026 calendar year to the Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation (COCIC), and designation of serving in their official capacity (Board of Commissioners), presented by Michael Ruehrmund, Assistant Director, Community Appointments.

Mr. Ruehrmund reviewed information found in documents submitted with the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Crawley moved to approve Resolution 0038-26, seconded by Commissioner O'Grady. The Resolution was adopted by roll call vote, with Commissioner Boyce abstaining.

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Brittany A. Razek, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, read one (1) journalization into the record:

1. Case #ANX-48-25, an Expedited Type 2 annexation petition was filed with the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department on December 8, 2025. The petition requested to annex approximately 15.3 acres from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City. This action was journalized at the Franklin County Board of Commissioners' General Session on January 6, 2026.

The Franklin County Economic Development & Planning Department received a withdrawal request for Case # ANX-48-25 from the petitioner's agent on January 8, 2026, due to the inability to provide sufficient proof of notice to the Municipality and the Township.

This is being journalized to reflect this action.

Site: 5713 Haughn Road (PID No. 160-002601)

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There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

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(Signature Page Follows)

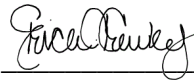
These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' General Session for Tuesday, January 20, 2026.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT



KEVIN L. BOYCE



**ERICA C. CRAWLEY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

Submitted by:



Michael E. Ruehrmund
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners